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**With over three Decades of Service to America, Duane Dykema, set to Retire from the  
National Weather Service 30 June 2021**

On June 30, 2021, Lead Forecaster, Duane Dykema will retire from the National Weather Service after 31 years of government service.

Duane's initial interest in weather can be traced to an extreme weather event that occurred while he was growing up on a farm in rural southern Minnesota. In January 1975, when Duane was 9 years old, a powerful slow-moving blizzard struck southern Minnesota, generating whiteout conditions for more than two days. Called the "Blizzard of the Century", the storm dumped more than a foot of snow on the region, produced wind gusts up to 70 mph, and left 10-foot high snow drifts on the family farm.

Duane studied meteorology at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, and at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. While still a student at UW, Duane began his career with the National Weather Service when he worked as a Student Trainee at the Portland Oregon Forecast Office during the summer of 1990. In January 1991, after completing his studies in Madison, Duane accepted a Meteorologist Intern position at the San Francisco Bay Area NWS Forecast Office, which was then located in Redwood City, CA. One of Duane's accomplishments as an Intern at the Redwood City Office was managing and expanding the Bay Area's Volunteer Weather Spotter Program.

Three years later, in February 1994, as the San Francisco Bay Area office was in the process of being relocated to Monterey, CA, Duane was promoted to a General Forecaster position. The relocation to Monterey was part of the NWS's Modernization and Associated Restructuring (MAR). MAR included installation of a nationwide network of advanced Doppler Radars, and Duane served as the Bay Area Office's first Radar Program Manager.

In November 1997, Duane was promoted to Lead Forecaster at the San Francisco Bay Area Forecast Office, a position he held for the remaining 23 years of his NWS career. One of the highlights of Duane's tenure as Lead Forecaster was being awarded a Regional Isaac Cline Award in 2003 for his contributions to the Regional Climate Services Committee, and specifically for designing the climate services web page template for all of Western Region's Forecast Offices.

Once retired, Duane plans to devote more time to his hobbies and passions, including hiking, gardening, home improvement, and travel.

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